United Nations A/HRC/28/NGO/164

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2015

English only

Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty – Association Internationale Pour La Défense de la Liberté, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-03793 (E)
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United for liberty, peace & security and against violence &terrorism in the name of religion-World Liberty Forum/Congress

I. CONGRETULATION & INTRODUCTION

Mister President,

First of all we want to congratulate you Mr. Joachim Rücker, for this important position as the new President of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Ninth Cycle (2015) as you said "fully aware, to serve the Council in fulfilling its obligation to help to promote and protect our universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing human rights and fundamental freedoms."[1] HRC has a great contribution together with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in favor of worldwide peace.

In same time, we want to express our great consideration for the work of High Commisioner of Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein for "preventing human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights".[2]

As Mr. Rücker said, also we –the AIDLR- strong believe that "is vital to join forces with the High Commissioner on Human Rights" and also with other organizations: European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE, OIC for global peace, development, human dignity and security.

In this time when according with Mr Zeid: "the world faces a growing number of simultaneous crises" we strong believe "this work of cooperation between international, regional and national human rights actors is clearly necessary, so that all of us can generate more impact…"[3].What we consider fundamental, according with profesor Heiner Bielefeldt Special Rapporteur on freedom of religión or belief, is that we "need coordination of all this stakeholders".

I'm convinced the energy, determination and wisdom of Mr. Rücker and Mr Zeid will gather together all expertise and the good will of every stakeholder –included of the civil society, international NGOs in favor of human rights and for all people of the world.

Excellences,

I'm Liviu Olteanu the Secretary General of the **International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty.** I thank to all your Excellences, to worldwide Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, for on-going efforts on behalf of human rights, peace-making, security and trying to stop the terrorism, discrimination and persecution in the name of religion or related to religious liberty or related to the right of expression, at the international and regional level.

The AIDLR strongly condemn all kind of violence and terrorism, all discrimination and persecution of the Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, atheists and so on –no matter where one tragedy should happens, - years ago started on 9/11 in US, or later in Madrid, London, in Bali, or Australia, specially in the last years in Iraq and Syria, or in Kenya, Pakistan, in Paris, in Baca Nigeria -where have been killed 2000 Christians-, in Denmark or in Libya.

I would like to believe that all of us which are participating to the UN at the 28[TH] Session of the HRC in this spring of 2015 would prefer to know that will not be more violence and terrorism in our world. Each person is unique, each life matters and has to be protected. We are concern how intolerance and discrimination has reached in the XXI Century an unimaginable and unprecedented gravity.

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[1] http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15423&LangID=E#sthash.MLm3BamY.dpuf
[2] http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48064#.VOQcGsZDbUQ
[3] http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15563&LangID=E#sthash.meTKFmBn.dpuf

We believe that respect of dignity of every person, protection of fundamental rights and international law and religious liberty according with one's conscience, or the right of every one to express freely without fear, have to represent for the international community, (UN, EU, CoE, OSCE, OIC), *not only a priority but an urgency*; the respect of the life and of dignity of every person, requires a *common vigilance* and *empathy* with all those which are suffering - as children, girls, women, youth and adult people, no matter the culture, color, background, education, and so on. We love the diversity and the culture of respect and we have to do everything for intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

The AIDLR is in favor of the Security Council of UN (UNSC) resolution 2170(2014) on: "Reaffirming that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security", "stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States, international and regional organizations".

There are a number of **universal values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** that enjoy international acceptance: justice, solidarity, freedom, and tolerance. But there is a difference between the beliefs of the values we hold and values really lived.

II. PROPOSALS of the AIDLR to GET AUTHENTIC UNDERSTANDING, LIBERTY AND PEACE

1. We stress for respect for differences, religious minorities and the defence of justice, democracy and law

The defense of justice is a challenge today. One of the great difficulties resides in reconciling cultural identity and respect for differences in a society where beliefs and cultures coexist.

2. Efforts towards common objectives

The basis of the pedagogy of peace, respect and non-violence, is an education in hope and in the growth of freedom.

3. Avoiding the confusing principles and divergences

Human rights have been degraded to benefit confusing principles, interpreted according to individualistic and arbitrary ideologies.

4. Dignity, differential fact and moral and fundamental rights

Being a *person* is what gives humans a peculiar ***dignity***, under which they cannot be exchanged for a price. People differ from each other: by the political community to which they agree to belong, religious affiliation, cultural background and by countless dimensions, that together build up a whole personal being.

5. Multiculturalism and living with differences

Multiculturalism requires teaching HOW *to live with differences*. All people need to develop a deeper understanding of the religious and philosophical conceptions of other culture. The AIDLR urges an *intercultural education*. It is necessary to establish communication and interaction between all these Cultures without erasing the specific identity of each one of them.

6. Wised measures of communication and interaction between cultures and religions

It is easy to believe that you are tolerant, just by the fact that you are indifferent.

If I do not know the ideas, emotions and hopes of another, *I cannot know* or respect him. Human beings can enjoy existing together in their equality and differences and become mutually enriched from these differences.

According with one UNESCO Statement: If we want peace, we have to remember:

- Faith communities have a responsibility to promote conducts characterized by wisdom, compassion, the art of sharing, charity, solidarity and love; inspiring each one and all for the purpose that we choose the path of freedom and responsibility. Religions must be a source of creative energy.

- We need to assume in our way of thinking that the religions do not have to be identified with any political, economic and social power, so they can be free to work for justice and peace.

- We need to promote peace by opposing tendencies of individuals, communities and religions who believe, or even teach, they are inherently superior to others.

- We need to promote dialogue and harmony between religions and within each religion,

- Rooted in our faith, we want to build a culture of peace based on non-violence, tolerance, dialogue, mutual understanding and justice... Let us call the various religions and cultural traditions to join forces and collaborate with us to spread the message of peace.

The AIDLR urges international community, Islamic countries, all UN delegations, international NGOs, strongly condemning the religious hate, intolerance, all kind of religious discrimination, persecution, terrorism and killing of the Christians, Jews, Muslims, and other beliefs and religious minorities.

The AIDLR urges international community to act immediately and decisively by coordinated response. **The AIDLR stress** the need of international empathy for the other' crisis, no matter where happens. Audiences also tend to look more closely at *crises at home*.

III. WORLD FREEDOM & TOLERANCE FORUM

Excellences,
The AIDLR wants to organize here to the UN in Geneva a WORLD FREEDOM & TOLERANCE FORUM/Congress where we want to stress the need of a cooperation and coordination, developing a new horizon against every kind of violence and terrorism, and in favor of intercultural dialogue, religious minorities, security and peace.

We thank for the support of the UN delegations and other international bodies and experts on human rights and religious freedom, and we would like **to invite all the United Nations delegations** to join us as partners and cosponsors, offering the political support to this *Global Forum on Tolerance* which we prepared to take place –if should be possible on May or June this year 2015, with policy makers from UN, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, OIC, with a strong participation of scholars, diplomats, politicians, religious leaders and civil society participants.

The AIDLR organized preliminary international events at the University Complutense of Madrid in January 2014 and to the UN HRC 26 session, with participants of international, regional and national level.

In this way together we want and we can contribute creating a peaceful world in favor of all of us and of the next generations.

More information on the Global Forum on Tolerance, you can receive from the AIDLR and from our partners and cosponsors.

Thank you Mr. President.
Thank you Excellences.